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Newsletter

Number 34

4 December 2009



Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

Thanks

.. .. A huge thanks to an awesome groups of parents for supporting the Year 7 & 8 Athletics team this week.

.. To the parents who've helped with PMP this term, this programme has made a very valuable contribution to our children's learning.

.. To those parents who accompanied our junior school on their theatre excursion this week.

.. To Ruth Telfer and Edith McCaw for garden judging. These ladies did an awesome job. It took all day to see over 50 gardens.

People of the Week

.. Gabrielle Dayberg who achieved Merit in Grade 1 RAD Ballet after only 1 term!

.. Monika Bayly, Paul Harte, Anna Miller and Max Adams for performing solo guitar items when they entertained at the Morningview Village Retirement home last weekend. Well done.

Kasey Hartwell for acting responsibly with her new black labrador, Armani. She has been feeding him everyday and enjoying playing with him

.. Sean Wilkinson and Jeremy Crawford for fixing a dripping pipe at school this week.

Out of Zone Enrolments 2010

We will shortly be announcing a limited number of placements for out of zone students for next year. If you know of any parents of students not residing within our zone who are interested in a placement at this school, please ask them to **contact our school office within the next week.**

Although these students may need to be balloted in, there is a **good prospect at this stage of some placements.** The Board has determined that **we have enough year 7 and 8 students for 3 intermediate level classes** next year and so this is especially exciting. Even with a small out of zone 'top up" these students will benefit from excellent teaching programmes and **class numbers around 30% lower than urban schools.** This means **more personalised learning** and a **great deal more teacher time for YOUR child** - so .. if you know of anybody with a year 7 or 8 student wanting an excellent preparation for secondary school please ask them to give our office a call.

think... SOLD!

think yellow,
think...

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Virtues Acknowledgement

Congratulations to the following children who have been selected by their classes as "Shining Examples" of the Responsibility Virtue. We hope your parents feel very proud of your efforts.

Rm 1	Bailey Moorhouse	Rm 1L	Brooke Laird
Rm 2	Isaac Williams	Rm 3	Gerran Baynham
Rm 4	Samuel Williams	Rm 5	Kate Williams
Rm 5	Kayla Sinclair	Rm 6	Brady Woolston
Rm 7	Brad Currin	Rm 8	Eleanor Gleeson
Rm 9	Anna Miller	Rm 9	Cameron Duckmanton

Parent Helpers Morning Tea

Parents / caregivers who have helped at school in any way this year are invited to a morning tea to be held in the school hall on Tuesday 15 December starting 10:30am.

This is our chance to thank you for the difference you have made to our school. To help with catering please give Helen a call next week if you think you might be in attendance.

Term 4 Calendar

- 8-11 December - Room 6 camp
- 11 December - Reports to parents
- 14 December - Team Athletics Day (pp 16.12). You might like to pencil in this day.
- 15 December - Prize Giving
- 17 December - Final day (mid-day finish - buses running approx 3-3.5 hours early)

Team Athletics Day

Please accept this cordial invitation to share our Team Athletics Day with us on Monday 14 December. Events get under way at 9:20 on the lower field, with field events completed by 12:25 and track events by around 2:40. The emphasis for this day is participation and teamwork, certificates for overall placings in our lunchtime track and field competitions will be presented at the end of the day, time permitting.

Special thanks to Michele Blagrove from Maggie Dixon and Alistair Rickey Decorating who are sponsors of this year's athletics.

Start Date for 2010

School will recommence on 3rd February 2010. Term 1 2010 finishes 1 April.

Classes for 2010

Class lists will be displayed on the hall notice board on 11 December.

School Council / PTA end of year DISCO - Years 4 to 8

A reminder the disco will be held tonight, Friday 4 December, in the school hall starting at 6:30 PM and finishing 9:30 PM. Children are asked to bring a plate and a gold coin donation to help cover the cost of the DJ. Thanks to our PTA for supporting again. We hope you don't feel too unwanted but the children have asked for parents to drop and return later to pick up.

2010 Year 5 & 6 Camp (Lonsdale Park)

This camp is scheduled for 16 to 19 February. As the cost will be \$130 per child we wish to give early notice so families can put a little aside. We do keep costs as low as possible and, as always, are more than happy to discuss payment arrangements. Miss Bevin and Mrs Witte will keep you posted as details are confirmed. Looks as though some awesome activities are planned.

Hearing and Vision Tests

.. took place this week. Parents will be advised by mail or phone of any concerns. All new entrants are automatically tested.

Needed

The Junior Syndicate is in great need of scraps of material, ribbon, beads, fringing - any sparkly fabric, red or gold is preferred, no matter how small as soon as possible. Thank you.

Prizegiving

Please keep the evening of Tuesday 15th December free for our annual prize giving. This is an opportunity to celebrate achievement across a wide range of domains. This evening will start 6.30pm and will conclude approx 8.30pm with a supper. Grandparents are welcome. Families are asked to contribute two plates for the supper.

All children are expected at prize giving although parents of 5 year olds may keep them at home (or arrange an alternative) if they wish.

Year 8 Leaving Books

You may be aware that it is customary for our board to present departing year 8 students with a leaving book. The year 8 students have now received their book vouchers, which are redeemable at most book stores. Children were asked to have their leaving books at school by today, but as yet, only a few have been returned. It is imperative these are at school on Monday. Thank you parents for assisting with this.

Interschool Athletics Tournament (year 7 and 8) - 1 December

Congratulations to those children who participated in the interschool Athletics competition this week. Especially Brianna Williams who came 2nd in the 800m; Alex Goodwin who came 3rd in discus, the Year 7 Boys relay team - Ricky & Alex Goodwin, Ethan Harkness and Edward Trombik, came 3rd and Reumah Horne who made the 100m final.

PMP

Please note there will be no PMP next Tuesday. The final PMP session is scheduled for Wednesday 10 December. Again, a special thanks to those wonderful parents who have helped with PMP this year - you have made a real difference to the learning of these children.

Home Garden

Thank you to those children (and their parents) involved in this year's Home Garden Programme. This has been one of our most enthusiastic garden groups ever. Judges were mightily impressed with the quality of the gardens and deciding on winners was a most challenging task. Winners of our home garden cups will be announced at prize giving.

Art Scholarship

Please feel free to drop by the School Foyer to view the art work submitted by those children nominated for an art scholarship. The winners will be announced at prize giving.

Matarau School Holiday Programme

The school holiday programme was a great success over the last holidays. We plan to offer the programme for a couple of weeks this holiday break if we can get enough parents and families involved. Likely start date 11 January for 3 weeks. For a donation of time, energy and a small charge (all proceeds go to the school) the kids and adults have a great time using the school facilities. We need indications of numbers of children, dates attending and parent supervision availability by the end of November. All those families who wish to be involved during the Christmas break please contact Chris Sapwell 4335099.

After School Care

Parents who indicated they will / might use the A.S.C. programme in 2010 will receive information on this programme today (or on Monday). This information includes what you can expect from this programme, a schedule of costs, enrolment forms and a fees schedule. If you did NOT receive a pack (or if you have only just decided that you may use this programme) please contact our school office urgently and we will get one

out to you. As this is a WINZ (OSCAR) approved programme the government subsidy can be substantial - recommend you take a look. To the best of my knowledge the franchise for this area is still available. Further information can be found on www.skids.co.nz

Outstanding School Contributions

Invoices were sent home two weeks ago. While the school contribution is entirely voluntary (although strongly encouraged), there are certain other legitimate fees which meet the cost of materials or experiences which come outside the regular curriculum. This includes Technology material fees and most non-compulsory outdoor education activities. Out of fairness to other families parents owing such amounts are asked to settle as soon as possible. As always we are flexible and accommodating with time payment arrangements.

For Sale

Surplus to current school requirements: The NZ Pocket Oxford Dictionary - 3rd edition, \$19 each. Ideal for students at High School or for home use. If you would like one, please see Helen in the office.

Wednesday Sausage Sizzles

.. There will be no more Sausage Sizzles this year, due to commitments by the Senior School. Thanks from the senior school for assisting this fundraising effort. The Tuesday canteen will continue for another couple of weeks & PTA Friday lunches will run until the end of the year.

Chocolates

There are still a variety of chocolates available for sale, if you are able to sell a few more please see Helen or Brenda at the office. If you have not already returned your money can you please ensure this is done so asap.

Community Notices

Sunblock Special - Kamo Pharmacy will offer a 10% discount on the purchase of any product from the DAY-LONG sunblock range to any one mentioning the school's name (till the end of December).

Soccer Holiday Programme - 21st-23rd December, 9.00-2.00pm daily, Tikipunga Sports Park, \$30 per day (family discount available), 6-14yrs. For more information contact Cheryl on 437 7294 or

www.unitedsoccer1.org.nz

Hikurangi JMC Hockey - Looking for new players for 2010. Great opportunity to be involved in a team sport and atmosphere. Hockey rally will be mid-March 2010. Times and dates of rally will be advertised in the New Year. Everybody welcome from Northland community. Any enquires please contact Paula Crawshaw on 4338214.

For Sale - Kamo Intermediate School girls uniform for sale, Size small. Phone Anne Frost, 021 0483708

Bulls for sale - 2yr old Hereford. Easily handled. Suitable for life-style block or farm. Phone Tim 0273089216 or 4346633.

Rock Rave - Northland Rock Hoppers fundraiser for outdoor climbing safety & development. 6.00pm-9.00pm Saturday 12 December. \$15 per ticket. Dancing, climbing, abseiling. Spot prizes.

Starship Hospital - Purchase a copy of the book "Weather Fish" written by John Parker and Room 10 of Ahipara School and all proceeds go directly to the Starship Foundation. For further information contact sponsors Barfoot & Thompson on 4383079.

Swimsmart Holiday Swimming Lessons - A two week block course of swimming lessons is available from the 28th December to the 8th January (excluding the weekend). They consist of one 25 minute lesson each day at the same time. Cost \$110 for the two weeks or \$60 for one week. Enquiries phone Gayle 4595323.

Water Deliveries - "Best price in town", ph Northend Contractors, Alan or Cherie 435 2662.

School enrolment zone

The Ministry of Education has made a determination in respect of our zone as follows ..

- .. inclusion of Worsnop Road, Lovell Road and Dunford Road
- .. inclusion of Guntown Road and all off roads
- .. inclusion of all of Attwood Road
- .. inclusion of Church Road (Year 7 and 8 students only)

Unfortunately the Ministry has decided against the inclusion of Roydon Drive on the basis that Kokopu School has capacity and is the nearest school for these children. This does not affect children from this area currently enrolled at our school - although there are no guarantees, siblings of these children have a better than even chance of being balloted in to the school. Should parents of children in Roydon Drive (and surrounding area) decide to appeal through a different channel the Board will do its best to support you in this.

The Board would like to thank those members of our community who made submissions. It is ONLY because of these submissions that any of the above concessions were made. A more detailed zone description will be made available to parents when this has been received from the Ministry. If you have friends or neighbours who do not receive our school newsletter we would be grateful if you could advise them of this news.

Finally

Many of you will be aware of the current debate around National Standards. Some education sector groups are calling for a boycott of the standards and a refusal to implement these. In Northland, in particular, this call has been made very strongly and the Northland Principal's Association has recommended such a boycott in member schools. Regardless of the arguments either side, Matarau School will not be part of this boycott and the standards will be implemented as per the government's instructions. We will keep you informed on the implications of these standards for your child(ren) after we have worked through the material and decided on how these might be best implemented.

Kevin Trehwella,
Principal

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